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sea I know no more I have to enlarge upon but Recomending you to y^e ℔tection of allmighty God who best knows how to provide for y^e widdow & fatherless I conclude in all sincerity D^r Sister Yo^r affection^te: & Loveing broth^r.

JOS. TAYLOE.

To M^rs. Ruth Tayloe
Bassinghall Street London
und^r. Cover
to M^r Benj Tayloe
Bellford Street Covent Garden London
Recorded July y^e 10^th 1705 ℔ Jos Tayloe Cll.

THE WALLS OF THE COLLEGE.

As the original buildings of Harvard College have long disappeared, the walls of the main building of the College of William and Mary have an interest as being the oldest college walls standing in the United States. These walls (or rather the front and north wing, which were all that was originally built)* have passed through three fires. The first of these fires happened October 29, 1705, the second February 8, 1859, and the third September 9, 1862. That these are the original walls erected in 1694 is shown not only by their substantial character,† rendering them proof against the expansive and destructive force of fire, but from the original chart of Williamsburg, which fixes the college, the church and the site of the capitol at the same distances apart that still prevail. (See QUARTERLY, X., p. 73.)

As to the building that succeeded the first fire, we are told by Beverley, the historian, that Spotswood restored the college to "the same bigness as before." In 1729, the chapel constituting the South wing was erected by Henry Cary,‡ and in the western end, formerly the entrance front, there may be seen a brick which has inscribed upon it upside down "R. K. 1729." The

* The main wall is 30 inches thick in the basement, and 24 inches in the first and second stories. It is 136 feet long, and 40 feet wide. The wings are 60 feet long and 30 feet wide.

† See "Accounts of the College in 1697," QUARTERLY, VIII., 166. The bricks of the main building and north wing were furnished by Col. Daniel Parke, who received 14 shilling per thousand for them. The superintendent was Mr. Thomas Hadly, who came over from England.

‡ The following letter is among the College papers:

letters are supposed to indicate the name of Richard Kennon, who was, it is believed, rector in 1729, and the reverse position shows that they were impressed in the brick before it was laid in the wall. In 1856, before the second conflagration, President Benjamin S. Ewell, had some plastering done, and in preparing the walls to receive the new coating, observed in them fragments of charred beams, and other traces of a great fire. (*Southern Literary Messenger*, XXX., p. 382.)

After the fire of 1859, the walls were again utilized for the restored building, and the same action was taken after the fire of 1862, as shown by the following letters:

The building of the chapel was awarded to Henry Cary, father of Archibald Cary, of the Revolution, and the original contract signed by him was preserved at the college till a few years ago, when it disappeared on a sudden.

JOHN TYLER, RECTOR OF THE COLLEGE, TO PRESIDENT BENJAMIN S. EWELL.

SHERWOOD FOREST, *February* 11, 1859.

My Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 9th reached me yesterday, giving me intelligence of the destruction of the college building by fire on the morning of Monday. It has filled me with deep regret. I had hoped that a mere rumor which had reached me was without foundation, but your letter presents the reality. I have this day, to avoid all doubt in the minds of the Visitors, addressed a summons through the *Enquirer* and *Whig* for Friday, the 18th. Will you see to it that conveyances meet us at Kingsmill Wharf on Friday, and that a place of meeting and lodgings for the gentlemen be secured. A friend in the person of Mr. Healy, the

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The Honble. the Governors of the Colledge of William and Mary.

Hond Sirs,

I understand by the advertisement of a noat set up at the Capitol by the reverend Mr Commissary Blair that a Chappell is to be erected to the said Colledge in form of the Hall and well fitted for the use of a Chappell workmanlike, all which building I will doe for Eight Hundred and ninety-Eight pounds currt Except the Sashes and Glasses in the Body of the Building I am Gent your most obliged

Humble Servt to comd

Mar. 26, 1728 James Hughes.

artist, who is here to paint my portrait for Congress, will accompany me, who I would have provided for. Whether Mrs. Tyler will accompany me depends on her domestic arrangements. She is strongly inclined, and will do so if possible.

May I suggest, my Dr Sir, to yourself and the other gentlemen of the Faculty the propriety of drawing up with care a statement of all the circumstances of the fire, and the estimated losses. It will be required for the public, possibly. At all events, it should be preserved of record. I hope that you have secured rooms for the lectures, and that you will resume them before Friday. Is the Brafferton rented by Dr. Totten, or is it a part of his perquisites? If the first, could not the Doctor accommodate himself in the city? The rooms of that house would answer for lecture rooms. I merely make reference to this in the emergency of our condition.

One word more. Do not commit yourself to publish the proceedings of the 19th in any Litt. periodical. You want all aid you can get through the political press. My address, awkward I fear it will now appear, is applied for, I mean a copy, by the reporter of the *New York Herald,* and I shall write that he can have it by coming here, and making the copy himself. How fortunate that you sent me the ancient records.

Respectfully and truly yours,

JOHN TYLER.

JOHN TYLER, RECTOR OF THE COLLEGE, TO GOV. H. A. WISE.

SHERWOOD FOREST, *March* 8, 1859.

My Dear Sir:

Your letter reach'd me last Friday, and I have lost no time in guarding the gentlemen of the Faculty and through them Mr. Grigsby, against unreliable estimates. My opinion is that the only way to restrain the expenditure within the estimate is to make the architect who furnishes the estimate also the builder, and bind him by contract. Or if the estimate be regarded as too large, to advertize for proposals within a certain limit. In former times I have had so much to do with false estimates in matters wherein the public interests were concern'd, that I acknowledge my fear of them. The rule above laid down was observed whenever practicable, and found to work well. As to

the person you mention, I had never heard of him until I received your letter, and have lost no time, as I have before stated, in writing to Mr. Ewell. I entirely concur'd with you in the views you express'd at Mr Ewell's, and would only consent to alter them upon one condition, viz.: a perfect conviction that the old walls are firm, and a decided saving in the outlay. After you left, I was assur'd by Mr. Morrison, and I think Mr Ewell and Mr. Grigsby, that the using the old walls would be attended with a saving of $8,000 or 10,000, and looking to the extension of the plan after your own suggestion, viz.: the erection of a laboratory and chemical apparatus room separate from the main building, I concluded that so large a saving could not, in the state of our funds, be disregarded. This is the extent of my committal upon the subject. Doctor Totten, in whose judgment I have much confidence, has written me a long letter upon the subject, and estimates that the cost of a new house would not exceed that of building on the old walls much more than $1500. He may, however, be deceived. I therefore wait for the estimates. Many of our friends are sanguine of a large collection of funds from private contributions. I confess that I am not so. I remember the failure of the effort made during the time I occupied the station now filled by yourself to rescue Mr. Jefferson from bankruptcy. I presided over the meeting of the citizens, and we had eloquent speeches and the expenditure of a vast deal of breath, but that was all. The money did not come. I fear the same result now. Economy should therefore be our watchword. The joint committee are expected here from Williamsburg at an early day. Harrison and Osburn are my near neighbors, and are both practical men. We shall freely consult each other, and I hope to arrive at safe conclusions.

With best regards to Mrs. Wise, and constant esteem and friendship, in which my good wife most truly unites, I am

Faithy yrs, JOHN TYLER.

I have the circulars from Mr. O. J. Wise very neatly printed, and shall begin without delay to address the Litty. Societies.

Superscription, His Excellency Henry A. Wise, Gov. of Virginia, Richmond.

franked. "J. Tyler."

HENLEY T. JONES TO THE EDITOR.

WILLIAMSBURG, VA., *July* 29, 1901.

Hon. Lyon G. Tyler, President of the College of William and Mary:

MY DEAR SIR:

In reply to your inquiry in regard to the present walls of the College, I can only say that prior to the destruction of the building in February, 1859, I had always heard and believed them to be those of the original structure. I was present at the burning of the College in the year above mentioned, and know the fact that the walls then resisted the ravages of the fire, they being two and a half or three feet thick. The College was rebuilt upon those walls during that year. I left Williamsburg with General Magruder's army in May, 1862. When I returned in April, 1865, nothing of this building remained save these same walls, the College having been again destroyed by fire applied by soldiers of the Federal army, as is well known. The present College building was, under the direction of Col. Benjamin S. Ewell, then President of William and Mary, erected upon the walls left by the fires of 1859 and 1862. Please do not infer that I mean to convey the impression that no part of the walls was destroyed; such would not be true; where they were damaged the apertures were small, and the main walls were not materially effected.

I hope what I have written may aid you in the object you have in view.

Yours truly, H. T. JONES.*

* Henley T. Jones was born April 10, 1842, and died July 26, 1902. He attended William and Mary College in 1859, and served in the Confederate army as lieutenant of the Williamsburg Guards. After the war he conducted a drug and book business in Williamsburg till his death. He was the eldest son of the late Henley T. Jones, Sr. (son of Allen Jones, of York county), and Mary Allen Jones, daughter of William M. Jones. He married Mary Southall, daughter of Albert G. Southall, and his wife Virginia Travis (daughter of Samuel Travis). He has left two children by this marriage, Hugh W. Jones, of Richmond, and Marian Jones, of Williamsburg. He left also surviving three brothers, W. L. Jones, of Williamsburg; D. S. Jones, of Newport News, and Dr. A. C. Jones, of Newport News, and a sister, Mrs. Hunter Wheeler.

BURNING OF THE COLLEGE IN 1862.

The following statement was made by the late Mr. J. L. Slater, of Williamsburg, in 1895:

"I was ten years old in 1862. I remember distinctly the day the Federal troops burned the College. In the morning General Shingler, at the head of some Confederates, drove in the Federal pickets, and Col. Campbell, who commanded the Federals, formed a line of battle at Fort Magruder. Shingler formed his line, and charged the Federals, who broke and fled to Yorktown. I remember Shingler returned with so many Federals, including Campbell himself, that we all thought that the Federals had come back bringing Shingler and his men captive. The Confederates left the town early the same day, and the Fifth Pennsylvania Cavalry, reinforced by the Sixth New York, encamped near the College. One of the officers came down town to an eating house near my mother's residence. A soldier, seemingly intoxicated, rode up and asked the boy who was holding a horse whose horse that was. He replied, 'Captain Henniss,' I think. The soldier, with an oath, ordered the boy to call the captain out. The captain came out, and the soldier ordered him to mount. He refused, when the soldier drew his pistol and shot him. I saw the whole thing. The wounded officer was carried into my mother's house. While he lay in bed, the soldier came in again, and drew a pistol on him again, and said, 'D—n you, you shot my horse, and I will shoot you in bed.' He was put out by some soldiers. The captain said he was not one of his men, the Sixth New York, but the Fifth Pennsylvania. Next morning about day the captain died in my mother's arms. The troops of the Fifth Pennsylvania threatened me if I told on their comrade, and though the soldier was arrested, nothing could be proved on him.

"Later in the evening I was at the College gate searching, at the captain's request, for the captain's first lieutenant, when I saw the College on fire. Going home, I met one of the Fifth Pennsylvania Cavalry, who was cursing and saying, 'I burned that d—d College, and I intend to burn this d—d town.' I was young then, but I remember these events vividly."

J. L. SLATER.